

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, December 7, 2005 9:00 a.m. Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nofs, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nofs, Proos, Drolet, Emmons, Garfield, Huizenga, LaJoy, Palsrok, Stahl, Baxter, Schuitmaker, Accavitti, Mayes, Hunter, Hopgood, Clemente. (16/19)

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representatives Moore, Dillon, Murphy. (3/19)

Representative Proos made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2005, supported by Representative Accavitti. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

Bob Chapman, representing the Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm, spoke to the Committee regarding activities of Coalition members, including locating funds to assist low income citizens and senior citizens with the rising cost of energy bills.

Kathleen Walgren, representing The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW), spoke to the Committee regarding a study done by THAW and indicated that copies of this information would be delivered to House member offices.

The Chair laid HB 5402 and HB 5403 before the Committee.

HB 5402 Proos	Use tax; exemptions; energy-efficient appliances; establish exemption.
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HB 5403 Proos	Sales tax; exemptions; energy-efficient appliances; establish exemption.
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Representative Proos reviewed the provisions of the bills with Committee members.

J.B. Hoyt, representing the Whirlpool Corporation, spoke to the Committee in support of HB 5402 and HB 5403.

Peggy Johnson, representing the Michigan Department of Treasury, spoke in opposition to the bills.

Barry Cargill, representing the Small Business Associations of Michigan, spoke in support of the bills.

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Subsequent to discussion, Chair Nofs indicated that no action would be taken on the bills today and that the Committee will work with the Treasury Department to address concerns.

Cards for HB 5402 and HB 5403 were submitted by:

Eric Rule, representing the Michigan Retailers Association, in support
Rich Studley, representing the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in support
Chuck Hadden, representing the Michigan Manufacturers Association, in support
Lee Schwarz, representing the Michigan Association of Home Builders, in support

Representative David Palsrok, Chair of the Subcommittee on Energy, submitted a report outlining activities of the Subcommittee at a series of meetings held earlier in the year. Topics discussed by the Subcommittee included Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) and Electrical Reliability Standards.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nofs declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 10:35 a.m.

Representative Mike Nofs, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-8538